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U.S. Attaché Quits Soviet After Charge Of Spying Activity

MOSCOW, May 14 (AP) — The Soviet Union announced today that it had expelled an American diplomat for espionage, saying that he had plotted with a Soviet citizen recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency. It was the second expulsion of an American diplomat in two months.

An embassy spokesman, Jaroslav Verner, declined to comment on the Soviet charges, but said that the expelled American, Erik Sites, had left Saturday.

Mr. Sites had worked in the military attaché's office, but Mr. Verner declined to say whether Mr. Sites was a member of the military or how long he had been in Moscow.

[In Washington, Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, also declined to discuss the espionage charge, saying that "we do not comment on such allegations." When asked whether the United States would retaliate by expelling a Soviet diplomat, Mr. Speakes said, "I don't have anything on that."]

The Government press agency Tass, citing the K.G.B., the internal security agency, said Mr. Sites was "arrested in Moscow on May 7, when he had a secret meeting with a Soviet citizen recruited by the U.S. intelligence service."

"A big espionage action of U.S. secret services against the Soviet Union was thwarted," Tass said.

The press agency said that an investigation was under way in the case of the Soviet citizen, who was not identified.

The Tass wording was virtually identical to that of an announcement March 14 that a second secretary at the embassy, Michael Sellers, was being expelled, also.

Tass said that evidence "obtained at the moment of arrest and in the course of the investigation fully disclosed Sites' intelligence activities incompatible with his official status."

Mr. Sellers also was accused of spying and holding a clandestine meeting with a Soviet citizen.